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January 2004 NEWSLETTER

Greetings of the New Year!

2004! Hope it's great, or at least healthy, for all of us! RVAA hopes you'll want to start off with us at our next meeting, Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Somerset County Library, 7:30 pm for a demo by Diana Patton (yours truly). It will be a watercolor demo, showing different techniques, including exploring YUPO. Yes, Yupo—the new plastic paper which makes painting on clayboard seem utterly controlled. Come see watercolor (with some gouache and acrylic used as watercolor) on Yupo, as well as clayboard and paper. We'll have some fun together, and also enjoy the refreshments brought by RVAA member Mary Lou Grudidas. At evening's end a couple of Diana's mini YUPO technique paintings will be raffled off to benefit RVAA.

For your calendars, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> RVAA will host demonstrator Delores Ann Ziegler; March 15 will be watercolorist Mark DeMos, and April 26<sup>th</sup> will see the return of watercolorist Ludlow Thorston.

Our annual Holiday dinner was a fun and lovely event and RVAA thanks Nona Rutter, our chairwoman, for once again putting it all together for us. A comradely group of artists and friends enjoyed a delicious dinner at McCarthy's Restaurant as well as the Awards Ceremony done by President Linda Arnold, the "White Elephant Plus" gift exchange, and readings by Eleanor DeMott, Ruth Wilson, and Diana Patton. We congratulate the following winners:

**Pro-under Glass**

1<sup>st</sup>: Linda Arnold  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Diana Patton

**Non-pro-under Glass**

1<sup>st</sup>: Bill Gilbert  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mary Creasy  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Rita Gorky  
Honorable Mention: Bertie Blockley  
Honorable Mention: Sherry Engelberg

**Pro-not-under Glass**

1<sup>st</sup>: Eleanor Morehouse  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Doug Axmann

**Non-pro-under glass**

1<sup>st</sup>: Nancy Schumann  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Christiane Silla  
Honorable Mention: Angela Fehrenback

Our judge was Al Grafke, whom most of us know by his paintings and demos he's done for us.

Our Holiday Show at the Somerset County Library was really beautiful—24 artists exhibited about 250 works, both in the display cases and on racks throughout the library. Your chairwoman Diana Patton thanks Mary Creasy for helping on set-up night, doing all sorts of paperwork and signing-in, and also Linda Arnold, for getting our judge and seeing that ribbons and certificates were available. Thanks to Marian Cornwell for doing the calligraphy on the certificates and for working with me on the financial matters pertaining to the show. A special thanks to RVAA

(new member!) Amy Erdman's husband, Bob, who created a great flyer for the show. We had the best publicity we've ever had as my articles and even the photographs I submitted got into the papers. Unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate, and I'm sure as a result of blizzards and library closings the first two weekends in December, we didn't do as well as usual.. Can't be helped; we can't, and wouldn't want to, fight Mother Nature, especially when she's our favorite subject. Highest selling artists were Doug Axmann, and Eleanor Morehouse. Our show came down in two parts, as the case paintings were requested to be held over for the new Bridgewater mayor's inauguration on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Will have more definite results next month, but it looks as though seven artists sold about \$1,000. worth of works.

Raritan Valley Arts Association has been invited to hold another show at the Somerset Cultural & Heritage Gallery in the Somerset County Administration Building on Grove Street, from November 1—December 10 this year. More news will be upcoming on this fortuitous event, but you might want to put it on your calendar now.

RVAA member Lynne Bigge and her husband Rick have bought Village Arts & Crafts, on Washington Valley Road in Martinsville (in the Blacksmith Commons Mall Strip, near the Martinsville Fire Station—Village Arts & Crafts is just behind the other shops, such as Beverly Hills Hair Co.) . Many of you are familiar with the store, as Jo and Jack Morales were in business for 30 years and are now retiring. Rick has been “interning” at the store for three months and the Morales will be helping out for a while with Lynne and Rick. As you probably know, Village Arts & Crafts specializes in custom framing, as well as carrying watercolor papers and paints, brushes, and oil paints and supplies. The store will only be closed on Mondays and Lynne and Rick offer a special discount to all RVAA members.

#### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

LINDA ARNOLD had a retrospective of her work at the Bernards Township Town Hall during the month of December and one of her paintings is the cover for the newest FOCUS magazine, put out by the Bernards Township Chamber of Commerce.

SONJA WEIR was selected to receive the Helen G. Ochler Memorial Award for an acrylic painting entitled “Ocean View”, at the 75<sup>th</sup> American Artists Professional League Anniversary Exhibition, at the Salmagundi Club, New York City, on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

Okay! I now await your cards and notes with YOUR news for the February NEWSLETTER. And I hope to see many of you at our next meeting, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Again, Happy New Year!